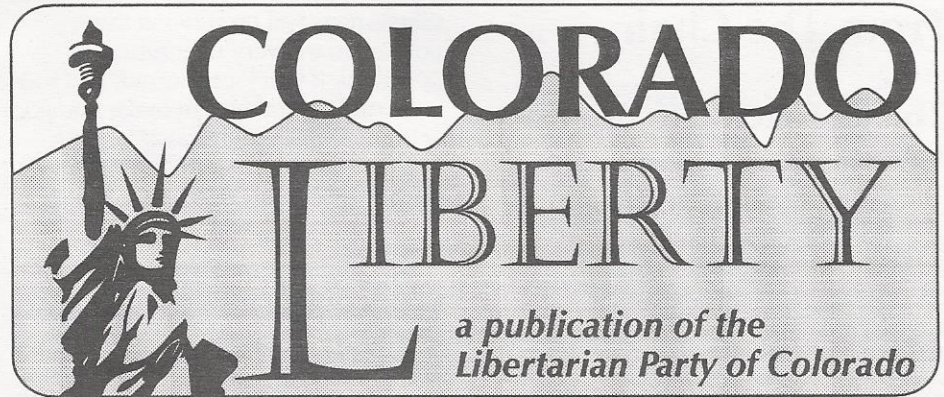


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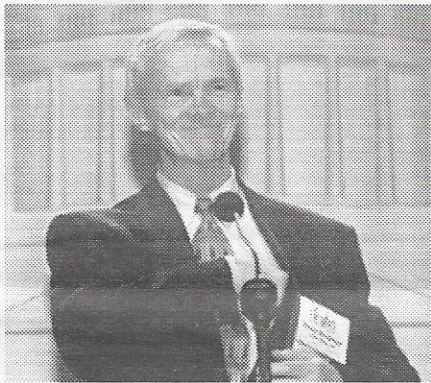


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August, 1998

## Bergland Elected National Chair at 4th of July Convention



David Bergland

by David Aitken

Washington D.C. hosted the 1998 Libertarian National Convention during the weekend of July 2 through 5. The most important piece of convention business was left until last: the election of officers. The results were: Chair, David Bergland; Vice Chair, Hugh Butler; Secretary, Steve Givot; Treasurer, Mark Tuniewicz. At-Large: John Buttrick; Mike Dixon, Bill Hall, Jim Lark and Mary Ruwart. Bette Rose Smith, LP of Colorado, was elected as regional representative for our region.

The National LP honored the LP of Colorado for passing HB1110 with an award that reads "In appreciation of your exceptional contribution to electoral freedom presented with gratitude at the Libertarian National Convention July 4, 1998." The plaque was presented at the Awards Banquet by Bill Redpath, the party's ballot access guru. David Aitken, author of that part of the bill by which we

qualified for minor party status, accepted the award on behalf of the party. Come see it at the office! Colorado was one of four states which received ballot access awards.

Delegates were treated to some GREAT speakers. Particularly noteworthy were Michael Cloud, the keynote speaker, who spoke on "The Unreasonable Alternative," and Bumper Hornberger from the Future of Freedom Foundation, who spoke on "Open Minds on Open Borders." Part of Bumper's speech was delivered in Spanish. Other speakers included Roy Innis, National Chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), "Libertarians: The Political pioneers of the 21st Century," and Peter McWilliams, Author of "Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do," on "Born Again Libertarian." Mr. McWilliams gave everybody at the banquet a free copy of his book and both Innis and McWilliams joined the party. Audio tapes of all speakers can be purchased at 1-800-645-6907; videos are available of Cloud and Hornberger.

Thursday evening, delegates were treated to a riotous performance by the "Capitol Steps," a comedy team which satirized every notable politician in Washington. Every five minutes, this 5 person coed group presented us with a new skit, complete with costume change. Practically every delegate howled with laughter for two solid hours. If you have a chance to see this group, don't miss it!

As expected, bylaws and platform debates took up much of the convention's time. Significant bylaws changes included delegate allocation and allocating time for nominating

and seconding speeches. Delegate allocations were changed to "one delegate for each 0.1 percent, or fraction thereof, of the affiliates percentage of the total party membership" and "one delegate for each 0.25 percent, or fraction thereof, of the votes cast nationwide for the Libertarian Party candidate in the most recent presidential election, cast in that affiliate's state." In order to be permitted to give nominating and seconding speeches, presidential and vice-presidential candidates must obtain the signatures of 30 delegates.

An attempt was made to change the Statement of Principles to eliminate the "cult of the omnipotent state". It failed, as usual. A 7/8 vote is necessary to change it.

Platform changes were limited to planks on The Economy, Sexual Rights, Freedom of Association and Government Discrimination, Health Care, Transportation, American Indian Rights, Trade and The Economy, Crime, and Freedom and Responsibility. The convention ran out of time while discussing the Family Life plank. Thirteen other planks which had been scheduled for debate were not even considered.



Harry Browne, prospecting the convention delegates for the 2000 presidential nomination.



# From The Chair

## Things That Make You Go HMM!

While at the National Convention, over the July 4th weekend, I heard many inspirational lectures from talented speakers like Barbara Goushaw, Jacob Hornberger, and Harry Brown. Then Roy Innis spoke about Libertarians being the political pioneers of the 21st Century, and I said, Hmm, I should think more about the future.

Keynote speaker Michael Cloud said it is the unreasonable person who changes the world, and why we must resist the temptation to become more reasonable. Charles Murray told us all how the legitimacy of the National Government was eroding at a steady pace. David Nolan explained his theory about the upcoming Paradigm Shift. So I ask myself, hmm, what will happen in the future?

I met dozens of people with wonderful ideas to share. They each had made tremendous strides in increasing membership and creating alliances. There were even some states who will have more Libertarians on the ballot this fall than the Republicans and the Democrats. It was exciting to be around all those enthusiastic, like-minded people. I thought, hmm, I feel pretty good about the future.

I watched as famous writers like Peter McWilliams (author of *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do*), Shelley Davis (ex-IRS Historian and author of *Unbridled Power*) and comedian Tim Slagle joined the Libertarian Party on National television. Hmm, we may affect the future.

I came home and had a message from a production company saying they wanted us to set up an outreach booth at a huge Rave (all night dance party) south of Colorado Springs. We were just setting up when several young people gave us the thumbs up and said "Cool! The Libertarians are here!" Not only were many of them glad we were there, but many were either already registered as Libertarians or willing to sign up that night. Some didn't know what we were about but came up to the booth, asked questions, and signed up to get more information. Hmm, these young

Libertarians will be running the country in the very near future.

I think if you look around, you too will find lots of things to make you go, "Hmm, The future is ours!"

*Michele Bethke, Chair, LPCO*

## Colorado Candidates:

The following are the Libertarian candidates for office in Colorado. If you are a candidate for office but not listed here, please contact Warren Kruse at 303-433-4604.

David Segal  
US Senate  
303-296-4059  
dsegal1@juno.com

Richard Combs  
US House District 1  
303-871-8824  
twtr12a@prodigy.com

Barry Maggert  
US House District 3  
c/o Richard Lamping  
970-963-7143  
m1group@yahoo.com  
<http://www.barrymaggert.org/>

Sandra Johnson  
Governor  
719-379-2767  
sdj@amigo.net

Dan Cochran  
Lt. Governor  
970-667-7557  
DLC137@aol.com

David Bryant  
State Treasurer  
303-744-6577  
davidbryant@worldnet.att.net

Geoffrey Lloyd  
Sec. of State  
303-722-7224  
geoffreylloyd@webtv.net

Wayne White Jr.  
Attorney General  
303-861-9705  
wnwhite@worldnet.att.net

Timothy Lloyd  
State House #2  
303-733-7025

Kurtis Klinghammer  
State House #3  
303-936-2084  
KurtisKK@aol.com

Warren Kruse  
State House #4  
303-433-4604  
war420@tde.com

David Aitken  
State House #5  
303-831-4334  
daitken@tde.com

Doug Anderson  
State House #6  
303-698-2651

Walter Schlomer  
State House #8  
303-837-1456

Michael Perkins  
State House #11  
303-939-8974

Ken Kirkmeyer  
State House #12  
303-744-0775  
kirkmeyer@webtv.net

Jeff McQueen  
State House #18  
719-531-6590  
ZenTramp@aol.com

Lloyd Sweeney  
State House #27  
303-456-9750  
71672.750@compuserve.com

W. Earl Allen  
State House #31  
303-245-4978  
wea@allmax.com  
<http://www.allmax.com/wea/>

Christopher Smith  
State House #37  
303-771-4256

Randall Phelps  
State House #43  
303-745-0121  
phelps@ecentral.com

Kathy Romack  
State House #56  
970-723-4016  
k1delynn@aol.com

Brent Shroyer  
State House #57  
970-675-2337

Robert Johnson  
State House #60  
719-379-2767  
sdj@amigo.net

Michael Simpson  
State House #61  
970-675-2337  
digiteye@rmi.net



# Calendar

## August, 1998

- 8/1 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 8/3 - Mon - Board of Directors - 7:00pm - LP Office, 720 E 18th Ave #309, Denver, Co 80203, 303-837-9393, all members welcome, public comment 6:45 and 9:00.
- 8/4 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 8/6 - Thu. - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm, Tom Goonan's home: 12895 W. 16th Drive, Golden, CO 80401, snack and conversation at 6:00pm, business at 7, call Tom Goonan, (303) 278-1698
- 8/8 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 8/11 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 8/12 - Wed - Boulder LP Board Meeting - 2nd Wednesday - 6:30pm - Trillian's, 30th and Arapahoe, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 8/15 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 8/17 - Mon - Ft. Collins Activists - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.
- 8/18 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 8/19 - Wed - The El Paso County LP will hold its quarterly business meeting at Bennet's Pit BBQ at 5245 N. Academy (north of Union). Election of officers will be among the events. Questions? Call John Berntson at 719-532-0118.

- 8/22 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 8/22 - Sat - 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Annual Libertarian Picnic at Berkeley Park on the SE side of Sheridan and I-70. Bring your own plates, silverware, and drinks (no more than 3.2 beer allowed by Denver regs.) Call BetteRose Smith at 303-639-5530 for details.
- 8/25 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 8/29 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.

## November, 1998

- 11/3 - Tue - Election Day - Vote Libertarian! 7am to 7pm at your local polling place.
- 11/7-8 - Sat-Sun - The Fully Informed Jury Association will be holding its annual convention in Dallas on November 7th and 8th. Call 406-793-5550 for details.
- 11/12-14 - Thu-Sat - The Separation of School and State Alliance will hold its annual conference at the Antlers Doubletree Hotel in Colorado Springs on November 12-14 (Thu-Sat). Call 209-292-1776 for details.

## Kudos

- Warren Kruse for all his hard work in getting the candidates. David Bryant and Warren Kruse for then getting the candidates to fill out and turn in the billions and billions of forms required by the various government entities.
- Jim Misa, David Bryant, Maralyn Mencarini and BetteRose Smith for great discussions while mailing out the July Liberty. Call Jim Misa at 303-394-4688 to join in the rollicking discussions and get some hands-on work done for liberty.

## Join Our Hot List!

Would you like to make a BIG impact on the Legislature? Join the Libertarian e-mail list to stay on top of all the action. Please send a message to [lpccemail@usa.net](mailto:lpccemail@usa.net) <<mailto:lpccemail@usa.net>> with SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field. Please send from the address/account you wish to subscribe/unsubscribe OR include CLEAR instructions to the poor human (Deron Dilger) who will get the message to decipher.

## Colorado Liberty

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W. Earl Allen . . . . . Editor and Videographer  
Ron Bain . . . . . Advertising Manager  
Maralyn Mencarini . . . . . Proofreader

Please send articles for publication to W. Earl Allen, who prefers email, since it keeps him from having to retype everything: [wea@allmax.com](mailto:wea@allmax.com) is his email address. If email is not possible, please fax to 303 375 0780. In an emergency you can send articles via U.S. Postal Monopoly Snail Mail to the address mentioned above.

### Colophon:

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# The John Voss Story: Government Out Of Control

by John Voss

## Chapter Six - Our Trial

Our trial on the 12-count indictment of May 7, 1993 began almost a year later. It lasted 15 days. My co-defendants and I were acquitted of all counts except the count of contempt of court.

The reason for this is very clear from the transcript of the proceedings relative to the first eleven counts of the 12-count indictment: the government had absolutely no evidence of any criminal activity by any of us to present to the jury. Even the judge appeared irritated at the time spent by the prosecutors attempting to establish these counts. However, when it came time for us to explain our reason for non-compliance of the court order leading to the contempt charge, Judge Carrigan would not allow us to explain it. His animation definitely increased by the time the proceedings reached this last count. At one point, he even took over the prosecutors' questioning of us in order to firmly establish in the jurors' minds that we all were aware of each of the subpoenas.

We, of course, wanted the jury to know that we had been through the courts innumerable times battling IRS harassment of our activities, and that 11 years earlier the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled that our membership information was protected unless the government could clearly show sufficient probable cause. Each time we attempted to bring up these prior cases and rulings however, Judge Carrigan stopped the proceeding and excused the jury. He then admonished our attorneys for attempting to tell the jury the law, which is what these prior court rulings amounted to. Such instruction was his bailiwick, he insisted, and he said he would give them the applicable law to consider and apply to the facts when it was time for them to deliberate.

After we had tried several times to inform the jury that 1) the subpoenas had been directed to the association, not us individually, that 2) Judge Finesilver had found the association in contempt, and fined it, not us, and

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that 3) we were still relying on the Tenth Circuit's holding in 1983 that probable cause had to be established in order to defeat First Amendment protections, Judge Carrigan called one more halt to the proceedings, recessed the jury, and then clearly threatened my attorney with contempt if he were to try to raise the issues directly or indirectly one more time! Essentially, Judge Carrigan took away our strongest defense against the contempt charge, and at that point it began to dawn on us that he was as desirous as the prosecutor for our conviction on at least this count.

When it came time to instruct the jury, Judge Carrigan gave them the instructions suggested by the prosecutor, but refused our suggestions. The jury essentially was given no choice but to return guilty verdicts for three of us, on the contempt charges.

After our appeals were exhausted, we surrendered at the prisons to which we had been assigned, and began serving our respective sen-

tences. See *U.S. v. Voss, et al*, 82 F.3d 1521 (10th Cir. 1996). Within two months, one of my co-defendants and I had submitted 2255-styled motions for reconsideration, the government had responded with their motions, and we had replied to the government's responses. After ten months, District Court Judge Lewis Babcock ruled against me. My co-defendant's motions have not yet been ruled on. Judge Babcock, one more judge, entered the picture because our trial judge, Judge Carrigan, retired at the end of 1994, the year of our trial.

*Chapter 7 of the John Voss story will continue in next month's Liberty.*

## Third Annual Picnic to be Held August 22

by BetteRose Smith

Libertarians of Colorado will once again have the opportunity to get to gather for fun, food, laughs and NO party business. Well, we can't stop you from talking but there will be no official business.

Due to the National convention held on July 4, our picnic was delayed until Saturday, August 22. It will be held in at Berkeley Park in Denver. The park sits on the southeast side of Sheridan and I-70. Our picnic site will be at the east end of the park. It is best to take the Sheridan exit from I-70 (or take the Sheridan exit from the Boulder Turnpike). Turn south, go to the first street on the south side of the park, turn east and watch for our signs toward the end of the park.

We are scheduled to have the picnic area from 1:00 until 6:00. Due to the lateness in making reservations, there will be no cover but we will be allowed to set up our canopy. We also need some volunteers to bring a grill or two. Everyone should bring their own plates and silverware as well as some side dishes and your drinks. Denver regulations say that the only alcohol allowed is 3.2 beer. The party has traditionally supplied the meat and some condiments.

This has always been a fun event. Bring the family and make a day of it. For details, call BetteRose Smith at 303.639.5530.



## Heartland PolicyFax Available to Candidates

by David Aitken

I now have a free complimentary subscription to the Heartland Institute, and with it, access to their PolicyFax service, which lets me get issue papers on demand on just about everything.

If any candidate wants an issue paper, please have them contact me and I will get it for them. I have a 300 page catalog of papers. Please notify all candidates that I can provide this service.

Contacts are:  
email: daitken@tde.com  
phone: 303-831-4334

## Convention Notes

by Craig Stinson

Steve Dasbach, former chair and now National Director, spoke of good news. Two years ago, at the last convention, the LP had 11,000 members. Today, we just passed the 28,000 mark, and growth is accelerating. Current growth rate is better than 50 percent per year. We're also getting on average a couple of interviews in the media every day. The convention audio is entirely available on the Internet; Cspan is covering much of it live.

Said Dasbach, "By 2000, we'll be talking about Libertarian membership not in the tens of thousands but in hundreds of thousands." That's going to require more than 50 percent growth per year.

Dasbach reminded the audience that, unlike the Democratic and Republican conventions, which are financed by \$12 million apiece of taxpayers' money, the Libertarian convention is paid for entirely by the members and delegates of the Libertarian party.

Michael Cloud's keynote address entitled "The Libertarian Party, the Unreasonable Alternative" was a real barnburner, delivered without notes, in the front of the podium—a substantially long, emotionally charged, inspiring speech.

Cloud started by quoting George Bernard Shaw "The reasonable man adapts to the world; the unreasonable man persists in making the world adapt to him. All progress depends on the unreasonable man."

Examples of "unreasonable" men: the signers of the Declaration, the Abolitionists, the suffragettes, Truman ending Jim Crow laws in the military by executive order, and others.

"Edison didn't improve the light bulb, he replaced it with something better."

"The Libertarian Party is the unreasonable alternative."

"If the Republican Party believed in the principles they claim to believe in, we would not be necessary. If the Democratic Party lived by the principles they claim to believe in, we would not be necessary. But they won't, they don't, and we are."

"If you want government as usual, we have nothing to offer you."

Cloud exhorted Libertarians to be unreasonable—to change the world for the better.

"To get dramatic changes, we have to do dramatically different things."

"Just say now."

"America was not made with focus groups, it was made with principles."

"Vouchers are food stamps for education, and they'll lead to the same thing..."

*Craig Stinson is the Public Information Director of the LP of Colorado.*

## Official Notice from Secretary of State Vikki Buckley

Political Organizations may qualify as minor political parties in accord with CRS 1-4-1303(1)(b):

"One thousand or more registered electors are affiliated with the minor political party prior to July 1 of the election year for which the minor political party seeks to nominate candidates"

The following Organizations have qualified for Minor Political Party status.

**LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF COLORADO**

Michele Bethke, Chairperson  
720 E. 18th Avenue, Ste 309  
Denver, CO 80203

**GREEN PARTY OF COLORADO**  
Mike Chamness, Chairperson  
1085 14th St., #1287  
Boulder, CO 80302

**NATURAL LAW PARTY OF COLORADO**

Cheryl Beckett, Chairperson  
2525 Arapahoe Ave., Ste E-4-460  
Boulder, CO 80302

I'm sorry for the late notification of these minor parties, however, Denver is still doing data entry for the Natural Law Party of Colorado for electors registering by the July 1st deadline. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Vikki Buckley  
Colorado Secretary of State

## Raving Libertarians

By David Aitken

At virtually the last minute, four Libertarians got invited to a rave on Saturday, July 11th. For those of you who haven't seen 20 in a LONG time, a rave is a sort of, well, dance party that lasts all night and well into the next day and attracts lots of young people age 18 to 25. Somebody else may have a better description.

Anyway, Michele Bethke and I found ourselves 20 miles south of Colorado Springs in the middle of 80 acres of nothing, with 3,000 very mellow, interesting, and interested young people, and some VERY loud and sort of hypnotic music.

So we set up our outreach booth, much like the one we had at the People's Fair, and managed to attract a fairly steady stream of people who were definitely interested in what we had to say. Many knew who we were and knew who Harry Browne was.

Very few would take literature or take the World's Smallest Political Quiz, but about 2 percent (more than 50) requested more information. The response at the People's Fair was much less, about 0.02 percent.

Warren Kruse and Robin Sharp showed up about 3am to finish out the night for us (thank you!). It was a great night; the stars were out, no rain (we could have used about 20 minutes worth to settle the dust!), no wind, and the temperature was just right. This was a project well worth doing, and more importantly, well worth repeating! See you at the next one!



## BOOK REVIEW

*You & The Police*

by Boston T. Party

Foreword by Nancy Lord, J.D., M.D.

Published by Javelin Press.

5 1/2 X 8 1/2, softcover, illustr.,  
\$14.95 from Paladin Press.

Reviewed by Ron Bain

The speed limits may have gone up in some rural areas recently, but there's still plenty of reason to be wary of "red and blue lights in your rearview window." Anyone who is bound and determined to exercise their full Constitutional rights runs some risks while driving on the public roadways, and Boston T. Party (a pseudonym) has several useful suggestions for any American.

Party estimates that no matter how law-abiding, a modern day citizen of the U.S.S.A (United Socialist States of America) stands a very good chance of being rousted by an agent of the State at least once in his or her life. A travelling advocate of privacy and liberty who openly carries his sidearm in states that allow such, Party has had many encounters with the police (whom he defines as either peace officers, intimidating cops or rogue cops, the latter being the worst).

Most people have encounters with the police while they are driving. And most people don't know that cops only have about 20 to 30 minutes to establish a reasonable articulable suspicion that you've done something wrong, or they have to let you go. Traffic violations are only cause for writing you a citation, not full-scale harassment. Party delves into case law about when cops can and cannot search your vehicle, and how extensive that search may be. He advises anyone who carries contraband in their car (guns, drugs, alcohol, even pornography) to keep that stuff in locked containers inside a locked strongbox in your locked trunk, as far away from the driver's area of control as possible.

Party provides advice on how to talk to cops: make them aware firmly, but not sarcastically or in a hostile

fashion, that you are aware of your Constitutional rights and the rights which have been established by precedent. Party has published a 3" X 10" card that can be easily kept in your car which lists the case law regarding detention, searches and arrest. Unless you have an excellent memory for legal trivia, it might be wise to obtain one of these cards and keep it in your car.

The goal, he says, is to get the cop out of your face and to let you go. If there's legal action to be taken later, the courtroom is the appropriate place to sound off about any transgressions the cop may have made while detaining you. You don't want a confrontation; you want to calmly and firmly express your innocence, your rights and your desire to leave immediately unless the cop is going to put you under arrest.

"This goes double for you leaders of American Liberty — don't go

off of your person.

Most of all, **NEVER CONSENT** to a search of your person or your car. Sometimes cops will go ahead and search you, but if they do so outside the rules of search allowed by case law, anything they find will be thrown out in court. If you consent, anything they find is fair game. If you find lights in your rearview while you're not prepared to deal with a cop, pull over into a private parking area, get out of your car and lock it. I have been advising friends to lock their keys in the car (leaving a spare with a friend or in a magnetic container stashed somewhere secretly on the car) if they would feel uncomfortable with a search. Tell the cop "Oh, heck, I just locked my keys in the car. I'm sorry. I have to call a locksmith." At this point they have to get a search warrant, and unless there's something laying out in plain sight, they won't be able to do this. When the cop finally leaves, call

your friend or retrieve your key and be on your way.

Party also recommends keeping a microcassette recorder and/or a camcorder handy in the car. If a cop starts to roust you in a way that you suspect is illegal, begin recording immediately. Cops have started using these electronic tools (hence the rise of shows like COPS!) and there's no Constitutional reason why a citizen cannot use the same tools to protect his or her rights.

I recommend this book to anyone who's ever had even a mildly unpleasant experience with the police. It's a good summary of your essential and recognized rights (as established by precedent or case law), and contains information and advice that could prove invaluable the next time you see lights in your rearview mirror.

Ron Bain is the Newsletter editor of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County and can be reached on the Internet at rez2word@aol.com

### Censored 1998

The second-most censored news issue of the year is toxins in personal care products. Order from most any bookstore, \$18.

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salivating for some 'hand to hand.' This thing is a full-blown war, not a skirmish. We need wisdom, courage and stamina — not blind rage. We need you on the outside."

Party asserts repeatedly that "Cops work for the State and the State is in search of bodies!" He advocates a policy I've adhered to most of my adult life: "No excuses." Don't give the cops an excuse to stop you, detain you, arrest you. Practice liberty as freely as you like, but not blatantly. Use good sense: pay your tickets; don't allow outstanding warrants to hang over you; keep the safety equipment on your car in good shape (headlights, taillights, brake lights, windshield); keep incriminating stuff



# Volunteers Needed!

by BetteRose Smith

The campaign season is heating up. We have over two dozen Libertarians running for office somewhere in the state including five statewide offices. This should prove to be our best year yet. I know that you are just chomping at the bit to find out what you can do to help. Well, here's a list of things we need volunteers for:

1. Most important, we need people who would like to help our candidates. This could include everything from watching the paper for important items, to calling the press, to setting up speaking engagements, to writing thank you notes. Each candidate will have his own style of campaigning and so the needs of each will be different.

2. A garage sale is coming up on August 8 from 8 to 5. We will need donated items and some volunteers to work the sale. Geoffrey Lloyd has kindly offered his yard on Lincoln Street in Denver for the site of the sale. The sale was very successful last year, raising over \$650. Let's see if we can beat that this year.

3. Volunteers are needed for the August 22 picnic. We will need people to help set up, cook, clean up and maybe come up with some fun things to do.

4. The State convention seems a long way off but there are things that will need doing very soon, including contacting our speakers. If you would like to be part of this major event, please call me, BetteRose Smith at 303.639.5530.

5. General office help is needed to help with computer input, writing thank you notes, following up with mail and other general staff work. Things are going to get quite busy with this election and the board members will have their hands full. If you have an hour or two each week, the LP could use your help.

6. We could use a newspaper reporter and a photographer. We have so many things happening this year, and it is difficult for Earl Allen to

attend all of them. It will be even more difficult since he will be running for office himself. If you have ever wanted to try your hand at being a reporter, or ever wished you could attend an event with a press pass, here's your chance. If you aren't good with words but have a good camera and like taking pictures, the LP can use you. Call Earl Allen at 303.254.4978 if you can provide pictures or stories or both for the Colorado Liberty.

For more information about these and other volunteer jobs, please contact BetteRose Smith at 303.639.5530.

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## The Long Train

By Tom Goonan

Over the past five months, our local Austrian Supper Club took a break from economics discussions to study the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution. The conclusion from these studies is that things just are not the way they used to be. We've come a long way, baby, from limited government.

Do you recall this striking language in the Declaration, "But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security?" Based on that language, I proposed to the group an idea which they found stimulating and which I now propose to the readers of the Colorado Liberty for consideration.

Suppose we organize an actual

physical train (perhaps on rails, more likely a train of floats like the Rose Parade) where each element depicts either an abuse or a usurpation. For example, there might be the Waco abuse, the 50% tax take abuse, the undeclared wars usurpation, prohibition (alcohol, drugs, etc.) usurpation, the broken Indian treaties abuse, the Tuskegee experiments on blacks abuse, the Japanese internment abuse, and on and on. Picture an engine with the sign "Despotism or Bust," and baggage cars listing all of the presidential scandals. The caboose might be a float with the abuses and usurpations language from the Declaration. What I see here is press, partnerships, and powerful protest with a purpose.

Envision this train chugging across the country from coast to coast, adding cars from every organization with a beef about out of control government, and pulling into Washington, DC on July 4, 2000. Would that ever make the point, right in the middle of the year 2000 celebrations?

I believe that this can be done, at least initiated, with some minimal resources of time, enthusiasm, and commitment. The floats would be built by participating partners. Perhaps a prize for the best float will improve overall quality. To get things rolling, we need a small group of activists to be an ad hoc planning group. They develop a plan, consider the pitfalls, and overcome them.

So, here's the call. Who thinks this is good enough to provide time, skills, or just encouragement? Send your e-mail responses to [mechelle1@aol.com](mailto:mechelle1@aol.com), or your telephone response to Tom Goonan (303) 202-9069.



# Forget Microsoft: Government is the Only Monopoly

by Timothy Kiernan

Before the federal government's investigation of Microsoft, some people told me they thought corporations were the next big threat to liberty after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It concerns me that those people seem ignorant of the fact that the only true monopoly in a market economy is its government, and that this monopoly can be more harmful to citizens than a corporation could ever be.

## Similar Beginnings

Let's look at the similarities between a government and a corporation. Governments and corporations are organizations formed by individuals to accomplish something collectively. Usually the goals for forming the organization are what could not be accomplished by an individual alone. For example, corporations sometimes occur when sole proprietors of successful businesses realize they need more capital to expand their companies. If they don't expand their businesses, a competitor could see their success and start selling something similar to the customers whom the original company has yet to reach.

A democratic government occurs when individuals come together to lay down ground rules for their society. At best, these rules recognize and protect the rights of the individual citizens. They set up law enforcement and courts so that individuals have a certain amount of redress for harm done to them by criminals. The government also provides a means of common defense from foreign invasion.

In both the above cases, individuals acknowledge a need and pursue it within a group structure. The company owner forming a corporation trades his or her total control over that company for an infusion of cash from people who then gain a voice in running the company. The individuals forming a government trade some of their money for a system of represen-

tative government, police, courts, and military.

## Comparisons

Here are some further comparisons of governments and corporations:

Issue	How Governments Handle It	How Corporations Handle It
Franchising	Citizens each have one vote in elections that determine presidents, representatives, judges, and referenda.	Stockholders gain "citizenship" in the company through purchasing shares of stock. Stockholders' influence on company policy can be proportional to the amount of stock owned.
Cost	Receives its operating expenses from taxes on its citizens. It is immune from "going out of business" because it does not depend on profit to continue its existence.	Receives its operating expenses from the sale of its goods or services to the public. If it cannot persuade consumers to use its goods or services, the corporation will lose customers and die.
Competition	No competition allowed; only one government can serve the country or anarchy results.	Competition inherently healthy. Goods and services are better and cheaper for consumers when multiple firms compete for the same customer base.
Participation of stakeholders in the running of the organization	Most citizens do not exercise their right to vote in elections. "Absentee citizenship" encourages the politicians and bureaucrats to perform at best inefficiently and, at worst, criminally.	Most stockholders do not participate in setting company policy through board elections and stockholder meetings. "Absentee ownership" encourages the management to perform at best inefficiently, and, at worst, criminally.
Leadership	Government is usually run by people who have lost touch with the citizens and with the reason they became leaders: to serve the public.	Corporations are usually run by people who have lost touch with customers as well as workers. Dilbert-type situations are the norm, but at least a company's stupidity affects only its customers and workers. The rest of society does not have to be affected.
Violence	The state may use violence, from imprisonment to capital punishment, to enforce its laws which the citizens are responsible for enacting through their voting.	The corporation cannot use force to promote its products or services. It cannot use physical force against competitors, either.

That last row compares the capacity of the government and the corporation for using violence to achieve their goals. Note how the

government is rightly supposed to use force in its pursuit of duty (such as incarcerating a convicted criminal to protect the population, or repulsing a foreign invader), but how corporations are rightly forbidden from advancing their interests via physical violence

against customers or competitors.

Now look at the row which addresses the issue of competition. To prevent chaos, a government must inherently be monopolistic and spread its influence evenly and consistently over the whole of society. It must be "the only game in town," as it were. Ludwig von Mises, libertarian economist, has said that, "State or government is the social apparatus of compulsion and coercion. It has the monopoly of violent action..."

The corporation, however, must have competition to encourage it to meet its customers' needs efficiently. A corporation without a competitor can be lazy and not respond to its customers and yet still make profits. However, a lazy corporation that does not satisfy its customers is ripe for the picking by a rival corporation or corporations which, in a free market economy,

will always arise to take advantage of the opportunity. It may take some time for the competition to appear, but it will. Always.

(continued on page 10)



## Letters

Dear Readers:

Like many of you, I have struggled with the decision to support the National Retail Sales Tax (NRST) Act. I vigorously support the elimination of the Income Tax and have written letters to Rep. Dan Schaefer asking questions and voicing my concerns about his proposal HR2001. Since his initial reply, I have not received answers to my questions. Sure, I received a packet of propaganda once that put HR2001 in a favorable light. And some questions printed in this packet were questions I had asked. Yet they never answered the big question. Are services taxed? And if they are, what services are taxed?

Recently, a spokesman from Americans for Constitutional Action (ACA), a proponent of HR2001, was on a local radio talk show promoting an upcoming rally and I asked my question. Are services taxable? He answered, "YES."

What services are taxable? He answered, "ALL." That's right, if you offer a service, you will pay a tax to the Federal Government every time you charge for your work. It does not matter if you are a doctor, lawyer, accountant, carpenter, painter, landscaper, gardener, or a newspaper deliverer. Every time you ride in a cab, have your lawn mowed, your teeth cleaned or your plumbing repaired, you will pay a sales tax on the labor required to perform the service.

HR2001, as it now stands, will expand the tax base under the guise of tax simplification. In fact, at a recent rally promoted by ACA, it was stated by a speaker, that they expect the NRST will increase revenue to government. I always believed that one reason for getting rid of the income tax was to reduce revenue to the government.

**SOLUTION:** Do not tax services.

Another reason for elimination of the income tax is that we do not want to file tax returns on the services we supply. Some reasons for filing returns under HR2001 include: 1) reporting taxes on services (labor) we supplied, 2) receiving tax refunds because we

did not earn enough "income," and 3) reporting taxes due on rental income. Yes, if you rent a home, you will pay sales taxes on top of your rent each month. All of this is required under HR2001. Government already has a problem getting taxpayers to voluntarily file their tax returns and this section creates the very thing we want to get rid of with the income tax: filing tax returns.

**SOLUTION:** Do not require the filing of tax returns.

Consider the tax on the purchase of a home. This tax is spread out over thirty (30) years. Why? All this section does is create compliance problems for the lending company, to make sure the borrower pays the tax each year, and more government bureaucrats to audit loans and returns to make sure we pay the taxes. More tax returns. Sounds familiar, huh!

**SOLUTION:** This tax should be paid at closing, maybe as the down

were due, he would revolt. Despite what many people say, money is the #1 reason for getting rid of the income tax.

**SOLUTION:** Lower the tax to around 5%.

Americans need to purge their minds of archaic practices, like filing returns, that are identified with the income tax. NO system of taxation is tolerable if it incorporates a TAX ON LABOR and REQUIRES THE FILING OF RETURNS. As it now reads, HR2001 is too expensive and too cumbersome as a replacement for the income tax.

Bill Johnson  
bjohnson30@juno.com

Dear Editor:

I don't see that much difference between tobacco and crack cocaine. At least I don't see as much difference to justify the difference in the way our laws treat the two.

Since I have never used either, I am qualified to comment with impartiality. Both substances are smoked and give some kind of unholy satisfaction resulting in slavish addiction. But white conservatives have for a long time used tobacco, while crack cocaine has more recently been a favorite among certain black folks.

In the name of Babe Ruth and Humphrey Bogart, let's stop the hypocrisy and admit that tobacco is a drug, perhaps as dangerous as crack cocaine.

Daniel Updike  
jupiter8@ix.netcom.com

## Calling All Copywriters

by David Aitken

Are you an ad or copy writer? Would you like to have lots of people see your work? The LP of Colorado is considering buying banner ads on the world wide web and we need your help in designing an ad that works! Please call David Aitken at 303-831-4334 for more info.

David Aitken is the webmaster of the Libertarian Party of Colorado's website:  
<http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado>

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payment or part of the loan. This removes the requirement of filing a tax return.

Proponents have promoted HR2001 on the idea that it taxes "final consumption" or "ownership." Yet what about the rental of video tapes, furniture, cars, power tools, etc.? If you rent these items, you do not own them. How are they going to decide the "taxable value" of short term rental property? Does the tax stop when the "value of the property" has been taxed?

**SOLUTION:** Do not tax short term rentals because they are not "final sales" or "ownership." If you purchase property in order to rent it out, then you should pay the tax when it is purchased.

And who wants to pay 15% tax on ALL transactions? I have often heard that if today's taxpayer had to write a check for his taxes each time they



## Microsoft

The United States Government is currently engaged in anti-trust activities against Microsoft. Our politicians claim that they must protect citizens from a company that has grown "too powerful" and is "engaging in anti-competitive practices." What they don't tell us is how much all this legal activity will cost the taxpayers. And if the government fails to prove its case, will the plaintiff be reimbursed for court costs? Either way the taxpayers pay a lot of money for "help" that may do more harm than good to the free market.

How "powerful" is Microsoft? I would argue that, in the long-term scheme of things, it is only as powerful as its latest product. In the rapidly changing computer industry, the opportunity for mistakes is just as great as the opportunity for successes. In my opinion, Microsoft has succeeded so far because of the ineptitude of its competitors and the business acumen of Bill Gates rather than the quality of its products. Eventually enough competitors will get enough things right — matching the right product with the right marketing at the right time — and Microsoft will lose its pre-eminence. It is the inevitable cycle of all industries. Remember IBM and the American auto industry in the 70s?

## Consumers Have Power

Many consumers become angry at poor service offered to them by an inattentive corporation. When consumers become disaffected with a corporation's goods or services, they look for another corporation from which to purchase better goods or services. The more disaffected the customers, the more eagerly they seek out new providers, even to the extent of taking a risk on an "underdog" entrant into the market. Thus are new companies made.

Personally, I don't like Microsoft products. They try to provide too much to too many and thus do very little very well. Their interfaces are often a tragedy of poor usability. I keep my home a "Microsoft-Free Zone" and enjoy buying software from other companies, often resorting to "shareware" that does one thing very well and has the advantage of letting me try out the software before paying for it (and yes, I do pay for it if I decide to keep it).

By choosing to support Microsoft's competitors with my purchasing decisions, I am exercising my freedom of choice in the marketplace. That freedom of choice as exercised by tens of thousands of customers will inevitably bring down powerful corporations that produce mediocre products because customers aren't really the stupid cattle that the US Justice Department thinks they are. Customers look for a good product at a good price, no matter how hard their government tries to convince them they need to pay huge taxes for "protection" from the "800 pound gorillas" that cycle through every industry.

## The Problem with Governments

As mentioned earlier, governments must be monopolies to prevent anarchy. But that quality, which helps them maintain order and dispense justice, can also be abused to horrible effect.

Both democratic governments and private corporations are ultimately accountable to their citizens or stockholders, yet

often neither of those groups participates enough to prevent the management of both organizations from doing stupid things. Unfortunately, because governments have violence as one of their tools, that force is easily abused by politicians who dream of implementing their wishes on society when they cannot peacefully persuade citizens to pursue certain avenues of behavior. The current War on Property that masquerades as a "War on Drugs" is one very good example. By allowing police departments to act as "Robin Hoods in reverse" and seize the property of citizens suspected of drug possession, the government is seizing assets of citizens before they have even been convicted of a crime. Innocent people often find themselves exonerated of charges only to lose their property anyway when they cannot afford to sue the government to get their impounded property back.

Unlike customers of corporations who can boycott a company's products and purchase from its competitors, citizens cannot choose to follow a different government's laws when they don't like their own government's policies. The only lever of change is to organize politically and promote better policies and candidates. Change is very slow in coming and requires sustained effort. In this context, the power of the governmental monopoly is far more dangerous to the citizens than a hugely yet temporarily successful company like Microsoft.

## Summary

The US Justice Department should leave Microsoft alone. The US computer industry will be much healthier if it realizes it must compete against successful companies without government intervention.

Likewise, the media and the citizenry would do well to pay more attention to the numerous abuses of power by their government—not to destroy faith in the role of government in a civil society, but to strengthen that faith by honestly facing governmental excesses and their destructive effects.

*Timothy Kiernan is a technical writer with Zoa Techmedia*  
<<http://www.zoatechmedia.com/home.htm>>.

## And Now, For Something Completely Different

It has come to our attention that a few copies of the Texas edition of Windows 98 may have accidentally been shipped outside Texas. If you have one of the Texas editions you may need some help understanding the commands. The Texas edition may be recognized by looking at the opening screen.

It reads WINDERS 98 with a background picture of the General Lee superimposed on a Confederate flag. It is shipped with a Daisy Duke screen saver. Also note the Recycle Bin is labeled Outhouse, My Computer is called this Infernal Contraption, Dialup Networking is called Good Ol' Boys, Control Panel is known as the Dern Dashboard, Hard Drive is referred to as 4 wheel drive, and floppies are them little ole plastic disc thangs. Other features, instead of a error message you get a winder covered with a garbage bag and duct tape.

OK = ats aww-right	cancel = hail no
reset = awa shoot	yes = shore
no = Naaaa	find = hunt-fer it
go to = over yonder	back = back yonder
help = hep me out here	stop = ternit off
start = crank it up	settings = sittins
programs = stuff at does stuff	documents = stuff I done done

Also note that winders 98 does not recognize capital letters or Punctuation marks.

We regret any inconvenience it may have caused if you received a copy of the Texas edition. You may return it to Microsoft for a replacement version.



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Aspen "The Liberty Coalition"  
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Gunnison Libertarians  
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U.S. Congressional District 6  
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38 Blue Sage, Littleton CO 80123

If your area (or campus) doesn't have a local contact and you'd consider being one, please contact Outreach Director Tom Goonan. A local area can be anything that makes sense. It does not have to be a county.

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